GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
CLOSURE OF COAL MINES
Barman Shri Ranen;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating on extending the right of mining of coal from coal mines facing closure to cooperative societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of coal mines facing closure at present;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce a national policy for the employees displaced due to closure; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL(DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) Coal India Limited (CIL) has not taken any decision to close any of the coal mines, except those mines where reserve will be exhausted. However some of the coal mines are facing closure details of which is given below :
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) : The operating appointed by BIFR has recommended for suspension of 26 underground unviable mines/units on exhaustion of reserves and safety ground.In the joint meeting with stakeholders, it was decided to suspense operation of 9 underground mines/units.For the balance 17 (seventeen) mines/units, it was decided to operate these units and efforts should be made to increase production and reduce cost to the extent feasible through manpower rationalization.

Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL): Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE's) report on Revival Plant of BCCL has proposed for closure of 41 underground mines in a phase manner which was incurring loss of more than Rs.1000 per ton.The closure plan of underground mine was revised and revised proposal is for closure for 24 mines.

Western Coalfields Limited/South Eastern Coalfields Limited (WCL/SECL): The reserves of 7 mines and 6 mines are likely to be exhausted in WCL and SECL respectively,which would face closure.
Central Coalfields Limited/Northern Coalfields Limited/Mahanadi Coalfields Limited/North Eastern Coalfields (CCL/NCL/MCL/NEC): At present there is no proposal to close any mines.
In Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL), 23 mines are proposed for closure due to reasons such as exhaustion of reserves and conversion into opencastmines, during the remaining 4 years of XIth Plan Period.

(d) & (e): In case of the closure of mines, no workers will be adversely affected.All the workmen will be redeployed/relocated suitably in the other mines and departments of the coal company.